



The Brooklyn Paper

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THREATENING SITUATIONS

War in Iraq has borough on edge

By Patrick Gallahee

The Brooklyn Papers

The first week of Operation Atlas featured much of what was promised—increased traffic, soldiers patrolling subway stations and a heightened police presence on the bridges and streets—not to mention Black Hawk helicopters patrolling the skies. Police closed off Court Street Friday morning, between Joralemon and Livingston streets, to surround a briefcase that was left in front of a Department of Education building at 65 Court St. Bomb Squad personnel were called and within half an hour, had cut open the briefcase to find that it was simply an empty piece of luggage. Later that same day, during rush hour, police had to close off a portion of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway for about 20 minutes to investigate a suspicious package. It turned out to be another false alarm.

"When these situations happen we have to go the full nine yards," said Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 64th Precinct. "It's the only way to handle these matters."

Operation Atlas is the police department's heightened response to possible terrorist attacks in the city in response to U.S. military action in Iraq. Under heavy guard and scrutiny are synagogues and other houses of worship, bridges and tunnels, transit hubs, fuel depots and tourist attractions and landmarks among other sites.

"Traffic is a little backed up getting into Manhattan," said Inspector



A member of the police department Bomb Squad inspects a briefcase left outside 65 Court St. at Joralemon on Friday. The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

Mike Coan, the counter-terrorism coordinator for Patrol Borough Brooklyn South, which includes the 62nd, 68th, 72nd, 76th and 78th Precincts of Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, Dyker Heights, Sunset Park, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill.

"Other than that, it's good," he added.

Brooklyn South has kept a steady presence at the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel, occasionally inspecting every car that tries to drive through, Coan said. The same procedure has been in place at the Verazano Narrows Bridge, Coan said.

"There have been a number of suspicious package jobs which we would send to the bomb squad," he added. "That's good. We're getting calls [saying], 'Canvas bag unattended, what is it?' Everything is coming back, 'proper ID.'"

"We've noticed the kinds of things you would expect in a



A National Guardsman at the Battery Tunnel. The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

heightened state of alert," Rising added. "We've gotten an increased number of calls for suspicious packages, which we encourage," noting that people should report bags or briefcases left unattended for long periods of time.

According to Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, the first few days of heightened security have included 16 responses to bomb scares and 1,700 vehicle searches citywide since March 17.

Neither Rising nor Coan were aware of any terror-related arrests in the first week of Operation Atlas in Brooklyn.

"There have been no incidents," said a police officer stationed at the Brooklyn Bridge Tunnel. "We're doing periodic stops."

He added that motorists have been cooperative with the elevated security that began after President George Bush announced the countdown for

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One more time

Fulton-to-Tubman switch again sought

By Patrick Gallahee

The Brooklyn Papers

Supporters of the initiative to rename Fulton Street to Harriet Tubman Avenue in honor of the leader of the Underground Railroad—a secret network of safe houses where runaway slaves could stay on their journey north to freedom—are urging Community Board 2 to revisit the issue.

At the request of Bedford-Stuyvesant Councilman Al Vann, the application, which caused substantial strife and contention last year, has been resubmitted to the board.

"We're just waiting for them to give us a response," said Bill Wen, Vann's deputy chief of staff.

A small portion of Vann's councilmanic district is in CB2, although he does not hold any appointments to the board.

Nancy Wolf, chairwoman of CB2's Traffic and Transportation committee, this week declined to comment on the latest proposal and referred questions to CB2 Chairwoman Shirley McRae.

Reached by The Brooklyn Papers, McRae declined to comment. The matter had come before CB2 last year, and the Traffic and Transportation committee voted to co-name the strip rather than make a full name change.

The original applicants—controversial activist Sonny Carson, who died in December, and Fred Laverpool, founder of Braggini About Brooklyn, a company that leads tours of notable African-American sites in New York City—were unware, demanding a full name change. That motion had already passed in Community Boards 3, 5 and 16, which share the majority of the nine-mile stretch of the strip from Adams Street in Downtown Brooklyn to Cypress Hills on the border of Queens.

After a heated exchange at the final meeting before the board's summer hiatus last year, Laverpool and Carson yanked the proposal and pledged to resubmit it in the fall. If the proposal was not accepted, Carson threatened, he would lead a boycott on the Fulton Mall.



Harriet Tubman

Carson, however, fell gravely ill, and Laverpool has endured his own health problems.

After discussions over the summer between CB2, the ousted president of the Fulton Mall Improvement Association, Lou Carbonetti, and Fort Greene Councilman James Davis, however, Laverpool said the threat of a boycott was off the table.

"It wasn't necessary to get rocks and throw them at each other anymore," Laverpool told The Papers this week. "Everybody wanted to back away from that and no one wants to go there anymore. At this point it's very, very clearly a resolvable issue."

He said an agreement was reached to rename Fulton Street in CB2, between Flatbush Avenue Extension and Classon Avenue, to Harriet Tubman Avenue and leave the Fulton Mall unchanged. A

See **AVE** on page 5

Big changes for PS 8 now

By Patrick Gallahee

The Brooklyn Papers

Parents currently sending their children to PS 8, as well as parents considering the Brooklyn Heights elementary school, were introduced to the incoming leadership of the long-troubled school Monday night.

Inside the school's auditorium, on Hicks Street between Poplar and Middagh streets, District 15 Superintendent Carmen Farina, who has already taken the reins of PS 8, introduced South Phillips assistant principal of PS 94 in Sunset Park, as the interim acting principal effective May 1. Olivia Ellis, a second-grade teacher at PS 321 in Park Slope, will take over staff development.

In selecting Phillips, 39, Farina

said she was looking for someone with links to the community, an ability to work with teachers and who knows the curriculum. District 15 has already been using

In Phillips she found someone who spent the last three years as an assistant principal in one of her schools and served as a staff developer at the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) Teacher's Center. The longtime Brooklyn Heights resident moved to Park Slope 18 months ago. Phillips is also a graduate of the Brooklyn Friends School, on Pearl Street between Adams and Jay streets.

"You can't pay, in private school, what I'm giving you for free," Farina said.

"The thing that's going to make one of the biggest differences in

See **NEW PS8** on page 6

Peace prayer

Congregation Mount Sinai will host an interfaith evening of "prayer for peace" on Thursday, March 27 at 7:30 pm. Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, a Fire Department chaplain, is inviting people of all faiths. The synagogue is at 250 Cadman Plaza West. Call (718) 875-9124 for further information.

Wanted: Peace

By Patrick Gallahee

The Brooklyn Papers

Less than 24 hours after the bombs started falling on Iraq, about 100 people gathered outside Borough Hall in a steady rain to protest the war.

Some guarded their candles under umbrellas while chanting, "No peace—no justice," a reversal of a familiar chorus of protest. A few passing cars shot back a few chants of their own, honking and shouting, "U-S-A, U-S-A" and once even "I—Iraq and I—you."

It was the kind of polarity repeated in several standoffs, both in a march in Manhattan on Saturday, which attracted 125,000 protesters, and two in support of the war and the troops—one in Times Square and another in Staten Island. The latter two collected only about 1,500 protesters combined.

While the number of protesters shows a great divide between supporters and dissenters, a Quinnipiac University Poll, conducted over the weekend, found that 47 percent of

New Yorkers said they supported the war while 49 percent disapproved, although nationwide by Wednesday, about 70 percent of Americans supported the war, according to several polls.

Outside Borough Hall March 20, after the first full day of war in Iraq, Molly Nolan, a resident of Park Slope and member of Brooklyn Parents for Peace, said she expected some divisiveness over the issue.

"There are disagreements," she said, as a carload of people drove past shouting hostilities. "I respect their right to support the war, I hope they respect my objection to it."

She insisted protest was her expression of support for soldiers overseas.

"I think that the best way we can support the troops that have been forced to fight an illegal and immoral war, is to end it," she said.

"The only way to support the troops is to take them out," Rusti Eisenberg, co-chair of Parents for Peace said at another rally. "And any rally that doesn't support taking them

See **PEACE** on page 5



War protesters hold up pleas for peace during rally outside Borough Hall Saturday. The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

Classrooms tackle war, terror

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

The day after President George Bush announced war in Iraq, several Muslim students at the School for International Studies in Cobble Hill decided to stay home.

"We have an Arab population that's scared to come to school," said Assistant Principal Charles Pomaro.

Ethnic bias was just one of the many issues raised in New York City schools this week as the war raged on.

In response to mounting concerns over safety, Schools Chancellor Joel Klein distributed a letter to parents outlining security precautions.

In that letter Klein explained that safety plans tailored to each school were ready to be implemented and evacuation routes had been posted in every school and distributed to parents.

"In the days and weeks ahead, the Department of Education and the principals and teachers at your child's school will be doing everything possible to prepare for potential emergency situations while at the same time maintaining the daily routines of educating and caring for your children," wrote Klein.

Kathy LeDonni, principal of PS 247, on 21st Avenue at 70th Street in Bensonhurst, said her

See **CLASS WAR** on page 6

By Patrick Gallahee

The Brooklyn Papers

Renovations to the Brooklyn Historical Society are nearing completion and this week a fundraising campaign for the upgrade of the historic museum received a \$250,000 boost.

The philanthropic wins of the Independence Community Bank, the Independence Community Foundation, provided the historical society with a challenge grant, which requires the museum to come up with 3-to-1 matching funds, totaling \$750,000, over three years in order to incrementally receive the grant money.

According to Gina Ingolia Weiner, a board member of the historical society, they have already raised \$360,000 in private funds to match the grant.

"We've already raised half of it," said Jessie Kelly, president of the historical society.

On March 19, Borough President Marty Markowitz, representatives of the Independence Community Foundation and historical society staffers gathered at the scaffolding-shrouded Brooklyn Historical Society building at the corner of Pierpoint and Clinton streets, to celebrate the grant and the progress of the rehabilitation.

The 122-year-old museum headquarters is undergoing a \$38 million reconstruction to rehabilitate the historic structure and install a massive, climate-controlled system to better preserve historic papers and artifacts. The HVAC system, the greatest single component of the renovation, includes miles of ductwork in the floors and ceiling and one-fifth of the building's 30,000 square feet has been dedicated to the ventilation system.

The museum has been closed since 1999 and is slated to reopen this fall with increased programs for the public. Of the \$38 million cost to



The Brooklyn Historical Society's renovated interior. The museum has been closed since 1999. The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

rehabilitate the museum, only \$9 million remains to be raised.

The Othmer Estate dedicated \$15 million towards the renovation and \$11.7 million came from the city, state and U.S. Department of Education. In late 2001, Rep. Nydia Velázquez secured \$1 million in appropriations for the Brooklyn Historical Society.

Much of what remains to be raised will go towards new educational programs and expanded events for the public. The historical society estimates that it will host six to eight curated exhibitions a year expected to draw an anticipated audience of 70,000 visitors each year.

"For us this is a classic," said Independence Community Bank CEO Alan Fishman. "Because it's taking a space and making it part of the community."

Five years ago, the operating budget for the historical society was \$1.5 million annually. When it

reopens, the budget will be \$3 million a year, said Anne Townsend, a fundraiser.

Among those programs will be an internship for Boerum Hill's Brooklyn High School for the Arts. The school's curriculum includes preservation arts, and students will have an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the facility.

"It will be a source for students in Brooklyn and New York City," said Borough President Marty Markowitz. "It will be a place for gathering for those in the arts, literature and current events."

About a dozen students of preservation arts from the Brooklyn High School for the Arts were on hand at the historical society to celebrate the grant.

"If we keep the past then we are going to have something beautiful to look at, no matter what," said Melisse Ozkardesler, 15, a 10th-grader from Park Slope.

They've got some Gaul!

Is there an anti-French backlash? Depends on who you ask

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

How you feel about French products these days may well be dictated by where you weigh in on the war in Iraq.

The past few weeks have seen House of Representatives cafeteria take the extreme measure of switching from serving french fries to "freedom fries," and the New York Post label the French "weasels" in countless headlines and columns, in response to that nation's blockade of United Nations-led military enforcement of Iraqi disarmament.

As the United States and Great Britain led the invasion of Iraq this week, some Brooklyn businesses reflected that anti-French backlash, while others were bolstered by an anti-boycott, even anti-war, support of all things French.

Jeff Jacob, an employee of Montague Wine and Spirits, on Montague Street at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights, tends to recommend French wines. While he says the majority of his customers' buying patterns have not changed, about one out of 10 customers now has a strong feeling about where their wine was produced.

Some customers say they will not buy French, while others are stockpiling Bordeaux and Cote de Rhone in an effort to counteract the unstarred boycott and also as an expression of their own anti-war sentiments.

While the German government also sided with August 2002, is struggling to

NEWS ANALYSIS

tend over to German wines, said Jacob.

As for Jacob's own take on the conflict, he said, "If we only bought products from countries that were politically desirable we would be limited to Absolut Vodka from Sweden."

That sentiment is not necessarily shared at wine stores across Brooklyn. At Bay Ridge Wines and Liquors, on Fifth Avenue at 72nd Street, one manager remarked that sales of French wines were down dramatically.

"People come in and complain about the French," he said.

The House move was sparked by a letter circulated by Republican Congressman Walter Jones, of North Carolina, who wrote that a restaurant called Cubbie's in Beaufort, N.C., had renamed its fried potatoes to "freedom fries."

Ohio Rep. Bob Ney, also a Republican, picked up on the idea and as chairman of the Committee on House Administration, March 11 ordered that the same be done in cafeterias in House office buildings.

French toast was renamed "freedom toast."

"This action today is a

small but symbolic effort to show the strong displeasure of many on Capitol Hill with the actions of our so-called ally, France," Ney said.

At Cafe Lafayette, on South Portland Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene, a neighborhood that now hosts a large French community, the owner's wife said the level of business had not changed.

At Provence en Boite, a small French restaurant on Third Avenue at 83rd Street in Bay Ridge, owner Leslie Bernat, who moved here from France a few years ago, said that, aside from a few remarks, it was also business as usual.

"Lots of our customers are coming in to support us. Some

people come to our restaurant and they say, 'We're boycotting wine, but they're having dinner in a French restaurant. In the meantime, they didn't have good wine to drink,' said Bernat. "I think it's said. I think people are really mixed up — they don't know what they're boycotting, if it's the wine, the food, or [French President Jacques] Chirac."

While she said that she supports the troops, Bernat added that she was against the war. "War has never been something fantastic," she said.

As for the anti-French sentiments, Bernat is confident that they will pass.

"We are just praying for peace," she added.



Peter Slywka of Montague Street Wines and Liquors in Brooklyn Heights displays a bottle of Pierrier-Jouet Champagne, made in (of course) France. The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Cahan

Principal: Diocese pushing out charter school

By Patrick Galloway
The Brooklyn Papers

A Downtown Brooklyn charter school that's only been in operation for about seven months, may soon be back in the hunt for space due to lease, and possibly philosophical disagreements with one of its landlords — the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn.

EXPLORE, an acronym for we Excel, Persevere, Listen, Observe, Realize and Enjoy school, which started in August 2002, is struggling to

reach an agreement to keep its classrooms and offices at 250 Jay St.

"This puts us in a bind," said the school's principal, Morry Ballen. "Because we have a really good product, we're an asset to the community and now we have to find out how to have a roof."

The building is owned by the Queens-based Mattone Group, but the land belongs to the Brooklyn diocese, giving it some veto power over who gets to lease in the building.

According to Ballen, while the school was trying to negotiate a lease on the property, it reached an agreement with

Mattone but never received a response from the diocese. With the programs gearing to begin in August, Ballen said the school needed to claim the space or risk seeing the program pushed back another year, so he signed a 10-year lease with Mattone in April. Before signing the lease, he said, he sent the diocese all 350 pages of the school's curriculum.

"They never expressed any concern," Ballen said. In October, he said, the diocese knocked the lease down to two years.

Ballen said he contacted the diocese in January, to promote

the school and find out why the church was reticent to keep EXPLORE as a tenant. On March 7, he received a letter from the diocese that said there were concerns about the curriculum of the program.

"But when I gave the curriculum, way back, there was never a problem with the curriculum that was raised," Ballen said, adding that specific reservations were never noted.

The diocese did not return calls for comment about EXPLORE by press time.

EXPLORE currently serves 168 students from kindergarten through third grade and

will admit 40 kindergartners a year to grow into a K-through-eighth-grade program by 2008. Given the schedule of the program and the difficulty of locating facilities for schools, Ballen is understandably concerned about the future.

"This is the No.1 challenge for charters," Ballen said of finding space.

But, he said confidently, "If we are doing everything we can to serve our students academically and the parents feel comfortable, we're going to find a way to solve this."

The charter school holds official non-profit status with

considerable independence from the Department of Education, although it remains accountable to the New York State Board of Regents. Its autonomy, however, gives EXPLORE the freedom to extend the school year from its traditional 180 days to 205, divided into five eight-week terms, and elongate the school day from the standard 3 pm dismissal to 4:20 pm.

The school receives about \$7,000 per student from the Department of Education.

"We're in the process of looking for new space," said Kevin Ortiz, a spokesman for the Department of Education.

"I believe the director is meeting with officials in District 15 in the hopes of finding some new space for the school."

Next year, when Mayor Michael Bloomberg's educational overhaul goes into effect, EXPLORE will fall under the jurisdiction of current District 15 Superintendent Carmen Farina, when Community School Districts 13, 14, 15 and 16 are combined into Instructional Division 8.

"Whatever our ability is to keep them within the region, we would like to do that," Farina said. "But we don't really know until we do an analysis of our space."

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HOUSE FOR SALE: Pursuant to an Order of Hon. Michael Pender, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, dated March 17, 2003, and under Sections 1702 (b) and 1703 of the RPAL, is an Article 81 guardianship proceeding under No. 100124050, the premises known as 440 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. is being sold, pursuant to a Contract of Sale entered into on or about December 23, 2002. The Contract to sell is subject to court approval. The purchase price is \$280,000.00, \$50,000.00 cash deposit with the balance due at closing which is scheduled to take place on or before July 1, 2003. Offers to purchase may be submitted in writing to Salomon & Jaffy, 550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2501, New York, N.Y. 10017. Salomon & Jaffy, has no later than 12 noon on April 18, 2003, however, please direct all questions relating to the property to John Weller, Esq., (718) 646-2658. PG13-14

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 180517 for liquor has been issued to the following: MERCURY BROS. CO. to sell beer, liquor, and wine at a restaurant, 180517, 180517, Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 9315 46th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11206 in the KINGS COUNTY. For on-premise consumption. BP12-13

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High Street station attack

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A 33-year-old Brooklyn Heights woman was attacked on March 22 on her way out of the High Street A-line subway station on Red Cross Place and Adams Street.

As the victim came out of the subway station at about 7 pm, a man grabbed her from behind and pulled her to the ground. The mugger then grabbed her cell phone and wallet and took off towards the subway station. Police said the suspect was seen jumping a turnstile before he disappeared into the subway station.

The victim suffered minor injuries.

Hoyt St. stab

According to police, an argument erupted into a stabbing on March 21.

Police said the suspect, 57, stabbed the victim, 39, in the arm, shortly before 7 pm, on Hoyt Street between Schermerhorn and Livingston streets, after an argument took a turn for the worse.

The knife was recovered and the suspect was arrested.

The victim's injuries required 13 stitches.

Clinton burglar

A woman returned to her home on Clinton Street at Pacific Street on March 17 to find her front door smashed open and an antique watch stolen.

The victim, 43, left home at around 8 am and returned at 7:30 pm to discover the damage. In addition to stealing the watch the thief had also sifted through the victim's personal belongings.

Auto heist

A 2002 Honda Accord was stolen from its parking spot on Henry Street, between Clark Street and Love Lane.

The victim parked her car shortly after noon on March 19.

When she returned, five hours later, it was gone. She also lost her cell phone, which she had left in the car.

Bar bag grab

A woman's purse was nabbed from a bar on Atlantic Avenue at Court Street.

The victim was inside the bar on March 20, at about

84/76 Blotters

6:30 pm, when the handbag disappeared. The victim lost her cell phone, identification, credit cards, \$50 and a make-up bag.

Double teamed

An 18-year-old man was held up at gunpoint by a pair of hoodlums on Nevins Street at Flatbush Avenue.

The victim told police that at 1:15 pm on March 19, he was grabbed around the neck from behind by one robber, while another held him at gunpoint.

The unarmed robber stole the victim's cell phone and then the pair took off on Flatbush Avenue.

Schumer's case for preemption

By Michael Virtanen
Associated Press

Sen. Charles Schumer on Monday advocated a "proactive" military posture, in which the United States strikes at perceived threats instead of waiting to respond to an actual attack.

"For the first time in our history, sometimes we're going to have to strike first," Schumer said while addressing about 100 uniformed cadets at Christian Brothers Academy, a military school in suburban Albany.

"When small groups of people can use technology to hurt us so badly here in our homeland, we can't wait," the Park Slope Democrat said.

He said it's a different world since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"I disagree with those, mainly on the left side of the political spectrum, who say we should never be proactive ... who say if we're nice nobody will bother us," Schumer said. He also disagreed with those "on the hard right" who believe America should proceed alone, without first seeking the support of other nations.

"I'm no fan of the French, but they've given us a lot of intelligence," Schumer said of the country that helped defeat terrorists in the United Nations supporting invasion of Iraq.

More than half the al Qaeda cells that have been broken up, it's due to foreign intelligence.

The continuing pursuit of terrorists is easier when other nations refuse to harbor them, Schumer said.

Atlantic Avenue work

The final phase of work at the intersection of Atlantic and Fourth avenues is underway.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is upgrading their underground facility at the intersection. Work will include the removal of temporary decking and replacement of concrete roadway base and asphalt overlay. The project will take seven weeks.

During that time, both Atlantic and Fourth avenues will have two lanes open in each direction. The parameters of the closures are: on Atlantic Avenue, between Flatbush Avenue and Fourth Avenue; on Fourth Avenue, from Pacific Street to Flatbush Avenue.



Clean as a whistle

Removing posters from a light post on Dean and Smith streets are Middle School 88 students (clockwise from near left) Andrea Recalde, 13; Jossy Loute, 13; Chad Elliston, 15; and Johnny Torres, 13. All are members of the school's SHADOW afterschool internship program. The cleaning took place on Monday.

The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Carlton

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Monday, April 7
Matzoh: Patriarchs vs. Wine; Matriarchs

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Park Sloper plays some dirty pool

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A man allegedly took a foul stroke on two people on 13th Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, when an argument erupted into violence with a pool cue.

According to police, a man and woman were arguing with the pool shark's wife, at around 2:30 pm on March 22, when the enraged suspect ran into his home to retrieve the cue. The suspect hit the 49-year-old man in the face causing bleeding and struck the 33-year-old woman in the arm and head, police said.

The miscue landed the suspect in jail for two counts of assault.

Butcher on 5th
A man was attacked with a meat cleaver while walking along Fifth Avenue on March 23.

The victim, 36, told police, he was on the corner of Third Street shortly before 6 am when the mugger approached and asked, "Where's your wallet?"

The mugger then slashed the victim with the butcher knife and fled without taking anything.

The victim was treated at Brooklyn Hospital.

Gang attack

A 15-year-old boy was set upon by a mob of eight youths on Prospect Park West. The victim was passing between First and Second streets on March 22, at about 10:50 pm, when the gang punched and kicked him. They stole his cell

78/72 Blotters

phone, valued at \$150, and fled into Prospect Park.

Rim surgery

A man's car was stripped of its wheels in Park Slope.

The victim, 32, parked on Seventh Avenue between Lincoln Place and Berkeley Place at 3 am on March 22. He returned to the vehicle seven hours later and found his 2002 BMW propped on tire jacks. All four tires with their accompanying rims had been removed and stolen.

Hit going home

A 23-year-old man was attacked and robbed by three thugs on March 22.

The victim was walking home on President Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues from an all-night grocery store at 4:25 am when three men grabbed him from behind and threw him to

ground. The victim was punched in the face several times, police said, before the gang rummaged through his pockets and stole \$22, credit cards and his driver's license.

Coffee break

A woman was sitting in a coffee shop on Seventh Avenue, between Lincoln Place and Saint John's Place, on March 20, when a thief brewed a devious plan to steal her purse.

The purse snatcher approached the woman, at around 10:15 pm, and pointed to a jacket asking, "Is that your coat?" When she looked the other way, the robber grabbed her handbag from the back of her chair and ran away.

The purse was later recovered on Saint John's Place between Seventh and Eighth avenues, sans \$250, according to police reports.

Schumer's case for preemption

By Michael Vitrane
Associated Press

Sen. Charles Schumer on Monday advocated a "proactive" military posture, in which the U.S. strikes at perceived threats instead of waiting to respond to an actual attack.

"For the first time in our history, sometimes we're going to have to strike first," Schumer said while addressing about 100 uniformed cadets at Christian Brothers Academy, a military school in suburban Albany.

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"I'm no fan of the French, but they've given us a lot of intelligence," Schumer said of the country that helped defeat resolutions in the United Nations supporting invasion of Iraq.

"More than half the al Qaeda cells that have been broken up, it's due to foreign intelligence."

April at Union Temple



Sabbath Services

Fri. eves, 8:15 pm; Sat. mornings, 10:30 am
First Friday of the month, 6:30 pm
* * * * *

Family Service & Potluck Dinner

Bring a dish for 8 and celebrate Shabbat with family and friends
Friday, April 4
Service at 6:30 pm; Dinner at 7:30 pm
* * * * *

Tot Shabbat

Songs, dance, and prayer for children ages 3 to 5, held on the second Saturday of every month
Saturday, April 12 at 10:30 am
* * * * *

Passover Services

Thursday, April 17 at 10:30 am
Tuesday, April 22 at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 23 at 10:30 am
* * * * *

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Friday, April 18 at 8:15 pm
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Si desea más información, llame a SEF al número 718 519-4463 o visite la página web de SEF en www.sunsetenergy.com

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By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A Brooklyn Supreme Court judge this week ruled in favor of a lawsuit brought by Bay Ridge state Sen. Marty Golden seeking to overturn an amendment to the city's term limits law.

The ruling negates the change, passed by the City Council last July, which ruled that a council member must be allowed to serve at least eight years before being term limited, by not counting a two-year term, like the current one, as a full term.

The most prominent beneficiary of the change in the law was Council Speaker Gifford Miller, of Manhattan, as it would have allowed him to run again this year for a term expiring in 2005, when it is widely believed that he will run for mayor.

Miller said he would appeal the decision, but the ruling has already sparked active, albeit subtle, campaigns to succeed him as the second most powerful elected official in City Hall.

Names that have been floated as candidates for speaker from Brooklyn are Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio, Fort Greene Councilman James Davis, Marine Park Councilman Lew Fidler, who heads the Brooklyn coalition in the council, and Bedford-Stuyvesant Councilman Al Vann.

Davis was the only one this week to announce his intention to run, but council sources say the others are laying the groundwork to make a play for the position, should the ruling survive appeals.

If the ruling stands, Miller will be forced out of office this year.

Other potential beneficiaries of the ruling include former councilmen Stephen DiBrenza and Ken Fisher, who would be able to run again this year for their long-held council seats should the ruling be upheld.

Asked if he would run, DiBrenza, the former Park Slope councilman, said, "They'll appeal. They'll appeal."

Fisher, who represented Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn until he was term-limited in 2001, said "It's not something that I'm



With the possible ouster of Council Speaker Gifford Miller (center) this year, Bill DeBlasio (left) and James Davis have been mentioned as his possible replacement. BP / File photos

seriously considering at this time. Although I certainly don't rule out a return to public office, I'm extremely happy at my law firm."

The decision was issued by state Supreme Court Justice Gerard Rosenberg on March 19 based on a lawsuit filed last year by Golden, who was then a councilman running for state Senate who would have otherwise benefited from the amendment. He argued that the term limits law, which was passed by public referendum, could only be changed by referendum.

Rosenberg ruled that imposing the amendment without a referendum violated the Municipal Home Rule Law and the City Charter.

The term limits law was put on the ballot in 1993, when it passed by referendum, and again in 1996, due in large part to the furious and expensive lobbying of cosmetics

heir Ronald Lauder.

The law that passed, however, had a catch: each member was allowed two consecutive terms, only one of which needed to be a full term. The rule would have forced eight members out of office in 2003, including Miller.

The amendment to that law passed the council by a vote of 46-2, with only Golden and East New York Councilman Charles Barron voting against it.

Golden filed suit against the City Council in October saying, "If you want to change anything about elections you have to do it through referendum, and that's the right way to do it."

Golden said this week, "The court ruling affirms my belief that the council exceeded its authority."

The list of players in the case have notable ties to the

Kings County Democratic Committee, which appoints candidates for the Supreme Court. Plaintiffs' counsel included Ravi Batra, a business partner of the Kings County Democratic Committee chairman Assemblyman Clarence Norman.

Batra, along with Republican attorney and former Giuliani deputy mayor Randy Mastro, took the case on a pro bono basis.

A Brooklyn Democratic source told The Brooklyn Papers Norman had a bone to pick with Miller over his selection of the council's central staff, including lawyers, accountants and administrators, some of whom are paid six-figure salaries.

The source said most of the council's central staff were referred by the county leaders of Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx and that Norman was

angry that patronage for Brooklyn was overlooked.

To the fact that Golden, a Republican, was the lead plaintiff in the suit, and the co-counsel was also an active member of the Republican party, the source theorized that there could have been an agreement not to bring the Democrat-controlled Assembly's resources to the aid of Golden's opponent in his bid for state Senate, incumbent Democrat Vincent Gentile.

Jeff Feldman, executive director of the Kings County Democratic Committee, said the party took no role in the case.

To the suggestion that the Assembly may not have dedicated resources to Gentile, he added, "The Assembly campaign committee's mission is to work on Assembly races."

A Golden spokesman added, "It was something he did as a councilman. It was nothing he did to campaign."

Asked whether Norman was ever consulted about the case, Mastro said, "Never."

"The council's actions violated the rule of law," Mastro said. He called their vote a "lack of respect for what the people of New York had repeatedly ratified at the ballot box."

Batra responded to calls for comment with a prepared statement that read, "This victory was a win for the citizens of our city who have repeatedly called for term limits. Legislative and political moves cannot overturn voter action

— and will not change the will of the people."

Batra's relationship to the county party is well chronicled.

He was a court-appointed manager of the Cypress Hills Cemetery from 1998 to 2000. His assignment infuriated two members of the Kings County Democratic Committee, Thomas Garry and Arnold Ludwig, who complained that they had been removed as counsel to the cemetery despite their loyalty to the Brooklyn Democrats.

The letter, which drew a clear link between party activists and the judiciary, eventually sparked an investigation that uncovered a widespread system of cronyism and nepotism in the Brooklyn courts.

Batra resigned in 2000 after state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer tried to have him removed from his post.

Miller said he would take the case to the state appellate division.

It will likely be battled all the way up to the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals.

Unless this week's ruling is overturned, Miller cannot seek re-election, but it is likely the courts will attempt to adjudicate the case by June to accommodate the calendar for circulation of petitions required to get on the ballot in September's primaries, Mastro said.

In the meantime, the ruling creates copious opportunities. See **COUNCIL** on page 5

Boro board rips Bloomie, Pataki cuts

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Borough President Marty Markowitz was joined by a small band of local elected officials as he announced budget priorities for Brooklyn on the steps of Borough Hall Friday morning, and ripped into cuts proposed by the mayor and governor.

Fighting for the reinstatement of the common tax, calling upon Gov. George Pataki to reverse his budget cut of all fund-

ing for universal pre-kindergarten programs, and on the mayor not to close firehouses or libraries, the borough president said Brooklyn was "not going to let it on the chin."

"We will not stop fighting for what's ours," said Markowitz.

Under the City Charter, each borough president must submit budget recommendations to the mayor.

Councilman Lewis Fidler, chairman of the Brooklyn Borough Board, called upon the

state and federal government to step up to the plate, explaining that New York was being short changed.

"We need help," pleaded Fidler.

Noting that the federal government "sends \$800 million to poor pig farmers in Arkansas, but doesn't expect the taxpayers in Arkansas to cough up a dime to match that," Fidler asked, "Why are newly New Yorkers less entitled than poor pig farmers?"

"We are all here together

calling for more money for the city of New York," said Councilman James Davis, whose district includes Fort Greene and Prospect Heights. "It is time for Washington to come to the table and provide us with relief."

Noting that the war in Iraq could cost this country upwards of \$200 billion, Davis said it would take just 1.5 percent of that to pull New York City out of its financial crisis.

Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio blasted Mayor Michael Bloomberg for simulta-

neously preparing the city in case of a terrorist attack and suggesting the closure of eight firehouses, five of which are in Brooklyn.

"Brooklyn continues to have to pay more than its fair share," said DeBlasio whose district includes Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill.

"When has closing firehouses protected people against terrorism?" asked DeBlasio. "You cannot talk out of both sides of your mouth in New York City and get away with it."

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Gas masks no guarantee of safety

By Geoff Mulvihill
Associated Press

Gas masks have become a popular item in the United States since Sept. 11, 2001. Government agencies, businesses and individuals have bought more of them with each threat of a terrorist attack.

But experts warn that some masks may not meet the needs of the people who buy them — and that buying masks might be a waste of money for many.

Here are questions and answers about the masks.

Q: How do masks work?
A: They filter chemicals and particles from the air. Some cover their wearer's entire faces, since some agents can enter the body through the eyes as well as the respiratory system. Masks have different types of filters or cartridges designed to keep out different types of matter.

Q: How much protection would a gas mask give me?

A: It depends on what the danger is. People very close to where chemical agents are unleashed might have mere seconds to get a mask on to protect themselves, said Al Armendariz, an assistant professor of environmental and civil engineering at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. People a few office buildings away might be safe for hours.

Q: How much do gas masks cost?

A: The price of gas masks



A Russian gas mask is shown as Mike Conover, the manager of Harry's Sporting Goods in Yardville, N.J., discusses its ability or inability to protect a user from poisonous gases.

vary widely. Some are available for around \$40 at military surplus stores. For around \$100, people can buy certified, unused masks.

Q: If I decide to get one, what should I look for in a mask?

A: Experts recommend people who are buying gas masks to consider what their needs are.

There are several models and several types of air filters designed for several purposes. In general, though, they say the masks should be approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Christina Keeling, an owner of Clearwater, Fla.-based America's Personal Safety Inc., which sells gas masks,

said people should also look for masks that have been tested by United States military agencies using live agents.

"A lot of masks will tell you they have military approval," she said. "They may have approval from an agency in Uganda."

Q: What should I avoid?

A: Masks that don't come

with instructions, masks where the rubber has hardened.

Q: Is just buying a mask enough to survive an emergency?

A: No. Experts say masks must be fitted and that their owners should practice putting them on. Some fear that owners will have a false sense of security. "To me, it's a waste

of money," said Harry Racer, owner of Racer's Army-Navy in Williamstown. "By the time you use it, it's too late."

SMU's Armendariz says he wouldn't recommend masks for the average citizen — but there are exceptions. "If you had an apartment right across the street from the White House or a military base, the risk is elevated enough" to buy one, he said.

Q: Are gas masks easy to find?

A: No. Adam Weiner, owner of Army-Navy Depot Inc., in Farmingdale, had 700 masks in stock on Sept. 11, 2001. He sold them all within 10 days. Since then, he said, they have been hard to get. He had nine on his shelves last week and expected them all to be sold quickly.

Keeling, the Florida-based gas mask seller, said there's a 60- to 90-day wait for a gas hood being used for employees and visitors at the Pentagon.

Q: Where can I find masks?

A: They are sometimes available at military surplus stores, but experts caution that buying them there can be risky for several reasons. Getting a tight fit is essential and so is having a mask with a new, unopened cartridge.

Several companies sell masks mainly to businesses where dangerous chemicals are present.

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Overweight?

COUNCIL...

Continued from page 4

for Brooklyn council members to jockey for leadership over the legislative body. Most were reticent this week to speak about such a run, presumably to avoid appearing disloyal to Miller.

"It's premature to think about that," DeBlasio said. "But I want to be clear, I want the next speaker to be from Brooklyn."

In the last round of leadership races, Brooklyn's leading candidate was then-Sunset Park Councilman Angel Rodriguez.

The unity of the delegation, if it ever really existed, fractured with several members making plays for the post and finally lending their support to Harlem Councilman Bill Perkins.

When Perkins dropped out, the members went with Miller. With many

in the delegation remaining loyal to Rodriguez, Brooklyn was the last to join the movement towards Miller and was left with a disappointing number of committee chairmanships.

As it turned out, while Rodriguez was running for speaker, he was simultaneously attempting to shake down developer Greg O'Connell for \$50,000 in cash and \$1.5 million in property in exchange for a favorable vote in the council on a plan to build a massive supermarket in Red Hook.

Rodriguez pleaded guilty and is scheduled for sentencing on March 27.

Names that have been mentioned as possible candidates outside of Brooklyn include Queens council members Hilary Monserrate, Leroy Conrie, David Weprin and Melinda Katz, as well as Bronx council members Helen Foster and Joel Rivera.

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PEACE...

Continued from page 1

out is dishonest."

Exactly what it means to support the troops and the changing context of war and protest once military operations begin, was an issue of some debate.

"I believe in a time of war, the country comes first," said Augustine John Di Fiore, a resident of Gravesend and a post commander at the Park Slope Army's VFW. "There's no reason for all these protests."

Di Fiore, who served in World War II from 1943 to 1945, said, "There's people giving up their lives and you have people protesting saying they want peace. Sure, we all want peace. No one likes war but when you've got to defend yourself you've got to defend yourself."

Others, though, who have also experienced the casualties of battle, find it a different approach.

Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio lent his opposition to the war at a small, pre-march gathering on Saturday morning outside Borough Hall — also organized by Brooklyn Parents for Peace — before the larger event in Manhattan.

His father was an Army captain and lost his leg in the battle of Okinawa, the last major campaign in the Pacific during World War II, which left 38,000 Americans wounded and 12,000 killed or missing.

"We support our troops, our men and women in uniform," DeBlasio said. "Because we want to bring them home."

There are few positions more complex than those of Ed Carter of Fort Greene, a 28-year career military veteran of both Korea and Vietnam.

Carter, a black man who grew up in Bensonhurst, was drafted into the Army at age 17, while the country was still segregated. In Korea, he heard the enemy broadcast on loudspeakers, "Go home black soldier. You can't even eat in your own country."

But Carter is from a military family and, after Korea, he joined the Air Force and served in Vietnam as well.

Today, he sees himself torn between patriotism and reservations about the cause of the latest military campaign.

"I have mixed emotions," he said. "A lot of people who are demonstrating against the war are pulled between emotions and devotion. They want to do the right thing, but they want the right thing to be done."

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AVE... THREAT...

Continued from page 1

monument, however, could rise in Tubman's honor in the mall, an idea Carbonei, who opposed the full name change, had offered when the proposal first came before the board.

The matter of an agreement was far from unanimous.

"There have been many proposals but no official agreement has been reached," said Councilman James Davis. "The process has got to run its course and it's got to come before the community board. I know that someone and officers from the board is going to be asking for re-naming. I don't know the specifics yet."

Rheatis Brown, acting director of the Fulton mall association, said she was not aware of any ongoing discussion about the proposal. She would not conjecture on whether the idea for a Tubman monument at Fulton Mall could be carried out.

"Brooklyn was the Grand Central Terminal of the Underground Railroad, and has the second largest African American community in America," said Laverpool. "I'm hopeful that Mr. Carson's dream will be fulfilled."

Continued from page 1

an invasion of Iraq if Saddam Hussein did not step down from power and leave the country.

"Every entrance is covered on both the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges," the officer added.

The Manhattan Bridge has become the main thoroughfare for commercial traffic as the Williamsburg Bridge was closed to truck traffic last week. On Tuesday afternoon, half a dozen traffic cops and officers from the 84th Precinct pulled over trucks every couple of minutes and searched the back before waving them back on their way.

The multi-agency, \$5 million-a-week security initiative went into effect last week and includes Army patrol of transit hubs, increased Coast Guard patrol of the harbor and tighter restrictions of federal airspace.

Fifty pilots have been assigned by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to perform round-the-clock patrols over New York City in Black Hawk helicopters equipped with infrared sur-

veillance devices. The Bush administration implemented the patrols over New York City and Washington immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The patrols were suspended in both cities early last year, but were resumed in Washington two months ago.

City officials said they were acting on general security warnings from law enforcement and intelligence agencies — not specific threats against New York.

"When you have a war, it just makes sense to raise your presence, your visibility, and to do more of what you've been doing anyway," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in an interview Tuesday morning on Fox News.

The helicopters and surveillance jets, though not armed, would alert fighter jets in the event of an emergency.

At the Atlantic Avenue Long Island Railroad and subway hub, at Flatbush Avenue, an officer said there have been no incidents in the past week.

"We're just out here," he said. "That's about it. Taking care of the public."

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CLASS WAR...

Continued from page 1

staff was well informed. With a new safety plan, a recent visit from officers of the 62nd Precinct, an emergency supply of food and water to last for several days, additional toilet paper, and a well-rehearsed fire drill plan, LeDonni said PS 247, its administration and staff, were ready in the event of a terror attack.

"We're ready, and every other school is ready," said LeDonni. "Like all city schools, PS 247 has two alternate sites to which children can be evacuated."

Safety isn't the only concern. With the war playing out on television in 24-hour real time, children are bombarded with more images of combat than perhaps ever before.

To address the potential mental impact that may have on school kids, Klein also distributed guidelines from the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence to parents and teachers to facilitate conversations with children about the war.

While some schools have organized forums, others are broaching the subject as it arises. "One little boy in fourth grade was upset and drafted a letter to the president," said LeDonni, who explained that the school was not mandating that teachers talk to the students about the war. "The need has to be apparent," she said.

Cesarina Socorro, a parent and school aide at IS 228, on Avenue S at West Fourth Street in Gravesend, said she was confident in the school's safety plans. In addition to talking about the war, students at IS 228 were writing letters to soldiers and planned on sending them over to Iraq.

"It's been coming up in individual classes, especially in social studies," said Edna Strauss, the principal of MS 88, on Seventh Avenue at 18th Street in

Park Slope, who noted that students have been edgy lately.

"I don't know if it's the warm weather or the war," said Strauss, who organized an assembly on Tuesday to discuss safety issues with the students. Wednesday morning, Strauss also gathered the staff to review updated safety measures.

"We all have a lot of concerns," she said. "I just want to continue with our daily activities. That's the best way we can service our kids."

While guidance for the public schools is coming directly from the Department of Education, private schools and day care centers are left to their own devices.

At Saint Ann's School, on Pierpoint Street at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, the founding principal, Stanley Bosworth, said the school had elaborate security plans, which are continually improving.

Asked what the school was doing to talk to students about the war, Bosworth said many were discussing the issue at home.

"Three-fourths of our parents are very erudite. Students are not coming here with ingenuous or blue hair. They're coming with humility and sorrow and even forgiveness," said Bosworth. "I couldn't speak to the students without saying something about the war or hearing what they have to say or hugging somebody whose brother was called up to the reserves."

Leonard Shendelman, owner of Super Kids, a daycare center and after-school program on Bay Ridge Avenue at Narrows Avenue, said the center was not taking any more precautions than usual.

"We reflect what our parents feel and our parents don't have concerns. We feel safe here," said Shendelman. "We're just going through our daily routine."

NEW PS 8...

Continued from page 1

education of your child is I am a firm believer that a smarter teacher provides a better education," said Phillips, who grew up in Cobble Hill and went to summer day camp at PS 8 when he was 6. "I want, and I think all of you want, to make our teachers here as smart as possible so that they can provide the best possible education."

To that end, Ellis has been brought in to lead staff development. "Coming from PS 321, and to leave PS 321, what I've learned that's most important is community," she said. "We need people coming together for the same reason."

The current principal, Carole Friedman, has resigned and will retire effective April 30. In many cases the nuts and bolts of the future program, such as whether there will be new teachers hired, will be developed later, according to Phillips, after he spends a period orienting himself to what is currently in operation at PS 8. Phillips said he will spend much of the next month observing the school.

A few of the concrete additions that will take place will be the linking of PS 8 with PS 29 as a "sister school." Melanie Raneri-Woods, principal of PS 29, has opened her doors to teachers to serve as a reference for the rebuilding of PS 8.

"The easiest way to make

change is to be able to see it, feel it, touch it and kind of adopt it," Farina said. "You can't do that if you can't find a school that easily merges with you, where teachers can go and actually visit, and look at what's there and say, 'Oh, this is what balanced literacy looks like.'"

As was announced in February, Tina Volpe, retired principal of PS 8, will be the superintendent of Instructional Division 8, which in July will include the current Community School Districts 13, 14, 15 and 16. "The school's in good hands," Friedman said after the meeting.

About 100 people attended the meeting and Nerissa Bardfield, a Heights resident and mother of two boys, said of Farina, "She's not wasting any time. I think people are starting to trust the process."

Big fun can come in small packages

Parent-to-Parent

Q: "I'd like to take my 3-year-old niece on an outing. I've considered a movie or the circus, but I think those may be too long or too scary for her."

—an aunt

A: Spend your time; save your money. Skip the circus or a movie. Instead, take the preschooler's natural instinct for exploration.

Grab a couple of paper bags and head outside on a leisurely walk, where the child can collect crunchy leaves, sticks and rocks to her heart's content. Then sort them out at home.

"Why spend money to amuse a 3-year-old when they get so much pleasure from nature?" asks a reader. "Take your niece into the countryside to discover cows and sheep and trees and streams. Make a collection of different leaves, and help her paste them on paper."

With nobody rushing her along on a walk, a child looks like a junior scientist as she squats to study ant colonies and plucks dandelions.

"It gives them a lot more time for conversation, bonding where they will learn," one mother says. "It's when we had the most fun with our kids, and when my kids talk about having the most fun with us."

Shape your choice around your niece's interests, but remember it's the focused attention that counts most.

To a preschooler, even the most loving caregiver will have a tough time convincing a girl to relax if she is frightened or highly sensitive to noise and lights.

One 3-year-old boy never seems to tire of outings to the fire station. But he wouldn't set foot near a circus; he's terrified of clowns, masks and heavy make-up. At the end of an afternoon with his family to an event at a nearby college, the boy declared his favorite part: The college's mas-

ers, the huge screen images and loud voices and music can be overwhelming — just like at the circus.

Other ideas:

• Gather two or three stuffed bears, a teddy bear and pack a snack or lunch for a picnic at the park. Bring along Jimmy Kennedy's "The Teddy Bears' Picnic" (Henry Holt, 2002) and other bear books to read.

• Sidewalk chalk and a bottle of bubbles are two fun but inexpensive ways to add to an outing with a preschooler.

• Go on an unharmed girls-only shopping trip. Stop for an ice cream cone, admire yourselves in front of a three-panel mirror, window shop and ride the elevator. Set limits ahead of time about buying something — you don't want your niece to end in a meltdown.

Can you help?

"My son just turned 2, and I think I've been cutting up his food into bite-size pieces for too long. He will not bite off pieces for himself, he'll simply refuse to eat it. He also refuses to use a spoon as anything other than a drumstick. He acts as though food is completely unnecessary — he doesn't seem to need more than about three grapes a day to survive. Any suggestions on bringing him up to speed as an independent and interested eater?" —a mother

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • March 31, 2003

Fortune teller

Trend Inc. predicts the gear you'll need to be in style in Brooklyn this spring

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

Kathryn Letson has always had a knack for predicting fashions. Now the Minnesota native, who lives in a vast Park Slope condo with her husband, Tony, and their dogs, Olive and Angel, has finally gone out on her own after 16 years working as a designer for Abercrombie & Fitch, DKNY and Gap.

When she opened trend inc., a fashion trend forecasting service, Letson wasn't sure if New York's fashion elite would trek to Brooklyn to check out her wares. But within less than three months, the fashion fortune teller has amassed a list of clients that includes corporate moguls such as Calvin Klein, Gap, Target and Osh Kosh.

While her specialty is forecasting next year's trends, Letson sat down with GO Brooklyn this week to lay out what fashionistas should be donning this spring. Be on the look out for bright colors. With the nation at war, this year's fashions will be about making people happy, said Letson, 38, who was sporting a turquoise short-sleeve shirt and white capri pants with a pair of Birkenstocks.

"There's a return to femininity," said Letson, predicting this year's fashions will include more "girly and sweet" styles than in years past, with an emphasis on innocence.

"People want comfort and happiness. Life is so complicated lately, people don't want to think so much about getting dressed," she said.

That also means, be on the lookout for vintage denim. And we're not talking about your mother's bellbottom jeans, either. According to Letson, people are dying to get their hands on denim from the 1940s and '50s. Vintage Big Mac jeans can mean big money: Letson just sold a



Spring style: (Above) Kathryn Letson of trend inc. calls this outfit, "Girl Scout Gone Right." Park Slope model Gisela Schmitt wears a Girl Scout-green dress with parrot applique (\$175) accessorized with a swing belt (\$55), coral necklace (\$29) and pink girly tank (\$12). (At right) Letson's "Rock it with Style" features a vintage red graphic T-shirt (\$29), with denim wrap skirt (\$79) and plaid shoelace wrist band (\$20).

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mango

pair for \$350 to a designer looking for inspiration for next year's lines.

But for Letson, that's a drop in the hat. Some designers come in and spend thousands for her style inspirations.

Letson's apartment-cum-studio is what she calls a "candy store for designers." Among the troves of treasures are vintage pieces Letson has amassed through-



her travels around the world, and now that she has struck out on her own, throughout her travels of the World Wide Web.

For him

While she tends to focus on women's fashion trends, Letson still has advice to offer men this spring. T-shirts remain a staple. Only this year, said Letson, there's an abundance of self-affirming messages posted upon those faithful tees. She recalled seeing a man sporting the message, "I'm going to pump myself up."

Also big for men are vintage Lacoste and Izod sportswear, pull-down hats, anything by designer Paul Smith and stripes and patterns.

According to Letson, vintage items can be an important staple of a man's wardrobe. Because men are so much more limited than women, sartorially speaking, vintage is one of the few opportunities they have to be unique.

Tracking trends isn't easy work, but Letson loves it. In addition to perusing clothing racks and watching the city's daily fashion parade, she spends hours each day pouring through Ebay and buying up castaway clothing, mostly from Canada and the south, which she says are little-recognized fashion hubs.

In fact, Letson will be heading south

this August to check out the world's longest yard sale, stretching 450 miles from Gadsden, Ala., to Covington, Ky. There she hopes to pick up key vintage items that she'll either transform with her sewing machine or sell to designers as-is for inspiration.

Where to shop

For those who cannot make it to the "450 Mile Flea Market," Letson suggests checking out a host of Web sites for style advice. Her favorites include style.com, topshop.com (which she describes as "The Gap of Europe") and wgsn.com. (Since it costs \$17,000 to subscribe to the Worth Global Style Network, you might want to find a friend with a passport or just stick to reading their newsletter.)

As for clothing stores in Brooklyn, Letson lists among her favorites: Beacon's Closet, at 220 Fifth Ave.; Hootie Couture, at 321 Flatbush Ave.; Refinery, at 254 Smith St.; and Debbie Fisher Jewelry, at 233 Smith St. Her final fashion mantra: "Be open and flexible to where you'll find your style." A self-described non-discriminatory shopper, Letson says she's just as likely to find inspiration in a 99-cent store as she is at Barney's.

And what pray tell does Letson see in her crystal ball for next spring? Let's just say, be on the lookout for culottes.

STYLE

For a consultation with Kathryn Letson of trend inc., call (718) 623-3630.



Old school: Letson's "Geometric Phaze" combines a 1960s Vera head scarf (\$49) with a vintage 1970s pieced-velour top (\$79) and 1950s Big Ben Unwashed Jeans (\$129).

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mango

THEATER

Made you look

Through April 6, J Mandel Performance will present the stylish new production "Feast," a large-scale, interdisciplinary work blending architecture with choreography by Bepiie Blankert, scored by Paul Geluso. Julia Mandel's expressive costumes and lighting by Aaron Copp.

The design, structure, composition, texture and color of Mandel's costumes are integral to the quality and impact of the choreographed movement, according to J Mandel's mission statement.

The dance performance cum gallery installation is an exploration of the origin of desire.

"Feast" performances take place at the Stable Building, 16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO. Tickets are \$10 on Thursdays and \$15 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Thursdays and Fridays the show begins at 7 pm and Saturdays and Sundays at 4 pm. For reservations, call (718) 246-7440. For more information, visit www.jmandelperformance.org on the Web.

STYLE

Mod Squad

Fashionable Bklyn kids don styles from '60s and '70s

By Tina Barry

For The Brooklyn Papers

Pace and love. That's the message children's wear designers hope their spring collections will reflect. Whether it's tie-dyed infant wear, toddlers in sleek halter dresses or juniors in the popular peasant style, the '60s and '70s, which have influenced adult wear for several seasons, make a big impact on children's designs this spring.

Designers who exhibited their collections at children's wear trade shows, and in showrooms in New York City, appear to be of two minds when styling for girls. One camp interprets the period romantically with a preference for multi-tiered skirts, puffed gauze blouses and embroidery, while the other travels the modern route, employing sleek shapes as a canvas for bright stripes or astonishing florals.

For boys, tie-dyeing T-shirts is as far as designers dipped into '60s and '70s nostalgia. Laid-back athletic looks with large T-shirts printed with baseball or sports cars are popular. The parietic red, white and blue color trio remains a designer favorite. Pairing tees with cargo pants in tan, khaki or relaxed-fit, washed denim was one look seen repeatedly.

White parents across the country buy up the latest trends, Brooklyn parents shop to a different beat. Proprietors of some of the better children's wear shops told GO Brooklyn that their clients looked for simple-shaped, comfortable clothing without the fussy layers and flourishes. A bright or offbeat color and an interesting graphic adds to a garment's appeal.

As far as the recession goes, Bridget Williams, owner of Fort Greene's Hot Toddlers, said parents are spending \$100 and up for a girl's dress and want accessories to match. Aimee Kelley, manager of Park Slope's baby bird, concurs, citing \$100, sometimes a bit higher, as the price parents will pay for a holiday outfit.

Bird, a Seventh Avenue women's boutique that opened in 1999, instantly developed a following of Park Slope women who look for hip designer clothing with a casual feel. Shortly into the store's happy marriage to the community, bird hatched **baby bird**, a children's wear boutique with a similar aesthetic. The shop, nesting next door to its mother, carries a selection of European and domestic designers. Children visiting the airy boutique can peruse the eye-level fish tank, complete with tropical fish and a miniature shark, while their parents browse the upscale lines.

According to Kelley, there's little resistance to higher price points for a specialty garment. For Passover and Easter, parents are looking for "simple, clean designs without a lot of appliques or trills." Stripes and other old-fashioned florals or hip, '60s-inspired florals look fresh for dress designs. Each shirt is hand-silk screened with bright orange, blue or green designs motifs that resemble cell matter, topographical map details and antiquated European currency such as the line. Sizes fit 6 months to 4 years and retail for \$25-\$32. Cooke's line of adult-sized

Each halter top, A-line halter dress, short caftan with matching panties or petal pushers is reminiscent of early '70s fashions. Gran keeps her shapes clean so that the reproductions of '70s-style patterns can shine. Sizes for an Eliza Gran design are 2 to 6 and retail for \$50 to \$60.

For holiday wear for boys, parents are choosing casual looks. "Funky T-shirts with shorts are selling well," said Kelley. Baby bird carries the designs of two Brooklyn designers: Raeburn Ink and Sandwiches by Matt Walker. Jen Cooke, a photo researcher at the Museum of Natural History, designs silk-screened onesies and T-shirts for her Raeburn Ink line that reflect her interest in nature. Each shirt is hand-silk screened with bright orange, blue or green designs motifs that resemble cell matter, topographical map details and antiquated European currency such as the line. Sizes fit 6 months to 4 years and retail for \$25-\$32. Cooke's line of adult-sized

See MOD on page GO 2

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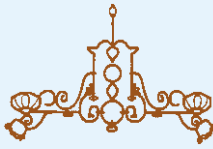
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All that jazz

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz has teamed up with the Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium (CBJC) to create "24/7 Jazz Brooklyn," a non-stop celebration of jazz throughout the month of April at clubs, restaurants, churches and music schools.

At a January press conference at the Sugarhill Supper Club at Dekalb and Nostrand avenues, musicians affiliated with the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music (left to right) Scott Napoli, Darryl Hall and Cecil Bridgewater gave a taste of the fireworks that are to come.

On April 2 at 6 pm, Sugarhill will be the site of the festival gala featuring performances by comest-bandleader Olu Dara and a solo performance by pianist Bertha Hope. At the gala, drummer Art Blakey will be inducted into the CBJC's hall of fame.

Other highlights of the festival include "Jazz: The Women's Viewpoint," a forum at 1 pm on April 5, featuring the ideas of women musicians and wives of musicians, and the Youth Jazz Jamboree, on April 12, from noon to 6 pm. Both events will take place at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton St. between Brooklyn and New York avenues.

For a complete list of events, visit our Web site at www.brooklynjazz.com or call (718) 802-4488.

MOD..

Continued from page GO 1

Sandwiches by Matt Walker, a T-shirt collection, sports fanciful line drawings of animals. "Hamster Ball" features hamsters under a clear plastic globe. "The Hug" illustrates an affectionate bear and monkey, and "Monkey on a Bike" is just that. Each smoky-toned blue or orange T-shirt is sized to fit newborn up to 6 years and retails for \$20-\$30.

Co-owners of the 18-month-old shop **Castor & Pollux**, Anne-Catherine Luke and Kerrilyn Hunt, mentioned Grant's line and the Helen James collection of hot pink-and-orange leather booties (\$45) for infants as two of the store's important collections. Located on Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, the boutique stocks an eclectic mix of clothing and gifts.

Bridget Williams, owner of the children's wear boutique **Hot Toddlie**, had a hunch. Williams noticed an influx of affluent couples with infants to her Fort Greene neighborhood. Since opening in Fort Greene last September, Williams' boutique has attracted customers looking for fashion-forward collections. "My customer will spend up to \$140 for a special girl's dress and around \$110 for a boy's outfit," she said. "If they can

STYLE

baby bird (428 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope) accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. For information, call (718) 788-4506.

Castor & Pollux 67 1/2 Sixth Ave. at Flatbush Avenue and American Express. For information, call (718) 398-4141.

Hot Toddlie 741 Fulton St. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Green Card. For information, call (718) 858-7292.

Tiki Atelier 267 Wyckoff St. at Nevins Street in Gowanus accepts Visa only. For information, call (718) 797-2677.

buy all the extras — tights, hat, shoes, jewelry to complete the ensemble — they're happy."

For spring, Williams' clientele favors the whimsical styling of New York manufacturer Halabalo, citing the company's cream-colored, quilted, cotton sheath dress with a hand-appliqued girl sitting under a palm tree as a popular holiday seller (\$126, its sizes 2 to 10). Williams also carries a SoHo-based manufacturer, supplies the store with vintage-inspired dresses. Each dress — in cocoa, beige or cinnamon — features a hand-crocheted top and a long, silky skirt. A matching crocheted cardigan finishes the look (\$138 for three-piece set).

Parents are choosing either an old-fashioned dress-up look or rugged, athletic coordinates for boys. On the old-fashioned side, Marie Chantal, another New York-based designer, has styled a fully lined, blue-and-white cotton set with a shirt that buttons onto shorts keeping the infant neat and camera ready. Sized for infants up to 6X (\$122), City Threads, a California company, adds a touch of Brooklyn pride to Williams' shop. The company's soft tanks and hooded sweatshirts, in maroon and olive, are embroidered with the word "Brooklyn" and "they last forever," said Williams. (Tank \$30, sweatshirt \$50 in infant sizes up to 6.)

For "twens," approximately 8 to 13 years, Williams carries the **Tiki** line. Tiki's designer, Linda Brady, along with her husband and business partner, Jean Ravau-Violette, offers bright, body-conscious dresses, T-shirts and skirts in spun jersey. For spring, Brady uses florals, abstracts, paisleys and skirts in spun jersey. For spring, Brady uses florals, abstracts, paisleys and skirts in spun jersey. For spring, Brady uses florals, abstracts, paisleys and skirts in spun jersey.

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WHERE TO GO

compiled by Susan Rosenthal

THURS. MARCH 27

FILM: St. Francis College presents "Die Another Day" 6 pm, 180 Remen St. (718) 489-5272.

WORKSHOP: Park Slope Food Coop talk, "How Can We Provide Quality of Life for All Within the Means of Nature?" 7 pm, 782 Union St. (718) 622-0540. Free.

CINEMA NIGHT: Harbor Defense Museum monthly discussion on military history through film. Today's film: "Pork Chop Hill." 7 pm, Fort Hamilton. (718) 630-5449. Free.

BAMCINEMATHEQUE: "The Apartment" (1960). 10:30 p.m. C&A with author Charlotte Chandler after screening. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

LIBRARY: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, hosts "Women Poets Speak Their Minds" series. 6 pm, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: presents "Music of Douglas Anderson, author of 'From Ghetto to Glory.'" 7 pm, 108 Court St. (718) 246-4158. Free.

LECTURE: Rootstock books a talk "How to Create a Window Box." 7 pm, 297 Seventh Ave. (718) 835-1888. Free.

PRAY FOR PEACE: Congregation Mount Sinai invites people of all beliefs to support one another at "Spiritual Solidarity at a Time of War: Many Faiths, One Family." 7:30 pm, 250 Cadman Place West. (718) 975-2124.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music, all Bach. \$35, 7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

FRIC STUDIO: Showcase of new experimental theater directed by emerging directors. \$10, \$8 students. 7:30 pm, 571 1/2 11th St. (718) 395-8441.

BARNES BAR: Boo Reiners of Demolition Brings Band performs. No cover. 7 pm, 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: presents Brazilian music with Felipe de Sa. 9:30 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

LOW BAR: garage power pop with the Reddheads. No cover. 10:30 pm. Also, Playwrights Reading

Series at 7 pm, 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100. Free.

MUSIC REVUE: The Rising hosts American old-time revue. \$2, 8 pm, 186 First Ave. (718) 622-0540. Free.

SOUTHPAW: Charlie Hunter plays his new album "Right Now Move." \$15, 18+ 9 pm, 125 Fifth Ave. (718) 230-0226.

B&M: and Mark Morris Dance Group. 7:30 pm. See Sat.

PLAY: "Feast." 7 to 10 pm. See Sat.

UNIVERSITY CIRCUS: 7:30 pm. See Sat.

GALE GATES: "Compress Your Dreams." 8 pm. See Sat.

WATERLOO BRIDGE THEATER: presents "Shakespeare in Space." 8 pm. See Sat.

FRI. MARCH 28

T&A CH: Salt Marsh Nature Center offers a class with Linda Beam. 9:30 am, 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

BLOOD DRIVE: at NYC Transit Authority. 10 am to 3:30 pm, 370 Jay St. (800) 933-8400.

LIBRARY EVENT: Resources for children with special needs invites pre-schoolers for a morning of fun. 10 am to 1 pm, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Heights branch, 280 Cadman Place West. (718) 677-4600. Free.

FILM FEST: Brooklyn International High School presents its sixth annual event. \$5, \$3 advance purchase. 4 and 7:30 pm, New York City Technical College's Voorhes Hall, 186 Jay St. (718) 643-9315.

Family night

If you haven't seen "The Godfather" in the big screen, you haven't seen it. The 1972 classic, co-written and directed by Francis Ford Coppola, features Al Pacino as Michael Corleone and Marlon Brando as Don Vito Corleone (pictured).

"The Godfather" will be screened at BAMcinemathek on March 29 at 2 pm, 5:20 pm and 8:50 pm as part of their "Oscar in New York" series. The cinema is located at 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place. Admission is \$10, \$6 seniors. For more information, visit www.bam.org on the Web or call (718) 636-4100.

SAT. MARCH 29

UNIVERSITY CIRCUS: 7:30 pm. See Sat.

B&M: and Mark Morris Dance Group. 7:30 pm. See Sat.

GALE GATES: "Compress Your Dreams." 8 pm. See Sat.

WOMEN IN JAZZ: The Jazz Spot presents vocalists Maki Waldron, Anna, Olivia St. plays drums. \$25, 9 pm to 1 am, 315 Kosciuszko St. (718) 453-7825.

BARNES BAR: Cigarras in a bluegrass program. \$5, 9 pm, 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

PLAY: "Feast." 7 to 10 pm. See Sat.

KIDS FUN: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, invites kids ages 8 to 12 to "Organic Club." 4 pm, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

DISCUSSION: Roundtable chat. 6 pm.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: presents chamber-rock music with Fratallone. \$7, 7 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music, all Bach. \$35, 7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

JAZZ: Old First Reformed Church hosts an evening of jazz, featuring pianist Charlotte Slonky, to benefit Coalition for the Homeless. 8 pm, 729 Carroll St. at Seventh Avenue. (718) 638-8300.

MAGICAL MYSTERY ST: Mark School Rock 'n' Roll show, featuring the Ultimate Beatles Tribute Band. \$35, 8 pm, 2602 East 19th St. (718) 332-9204.

OPERA READING: American Opera Projects reading excerpts from "The Bridge of San Luis Rey." \$20, \$15 students and seniors. 8 pm, South Oxford Square, 138 S. Oxford St. (718) 398-4024.

ABOVE THE RIGHT BANK: presents Intima and Saccharmental Targets. \$5, 8 pm, 409 Kent Ave. (718) 388-3929.

WOMEN IN JAZZ: The Jazz Spot presents vocalists Maki Waldron, Anna, Olivia St. plays drums. \$25, 9 pm to 1 am, 315 Kosciuszko St. (718) 453-7825.

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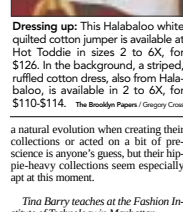
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Tina Barry teaches at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan.

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PLAY: "Feast." 7 to 10 pm. See Sat.

KIDS FUN: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, invites kids ages 8 to 12 to "Organic Club." 4 pm, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

DISCUSSION: Roundtable chat. 6 pm.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: presents chamber-rock music with Fratallone. \$7, 7 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music, all Bach. \$35, 7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

JAZZ: Old First Reformed Church hosts an evening of jazz, featuring pianist Charlotte Slonky, to benefit Coalition for the Homeless. 8 pm, 729 Carroll St. at Seventh Avenue. (718) 638-8300.

MAGICAL MYSTERY ST: Mark School Rock 'n' Roll show, featuring the Ultimate Beatles Tribute Band. \$35, 8 pm, 2602 East 19th St. (718) 332-9204.

OPERA READING: American Opera Projects reading excerpts from "The Bridge of San Luis Rey." \$20, \$15 students and seniors. 8 pm, South Oxford Square, 138 S. Oxford St. (718) 398-4024.

ABOVE THE RIGHT BANK: presents Intima and Saccharmental Targets. \$5, 8 pm, 409 Kent Ave. (718) 388-3929.

WOMEN IN JAZZ: The Jazz Spot presents vocalists Maki Waldron, Anna, Olivia St. plays drums. \$25, 9 pm to 1 am, 315 Kosciuszko St. (718) 453-7825.

BARNES BAR: Cigarras in a bluegrass program. \$5, 9 pm, 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

PLAY: "Feast." 7 to 10 pm. See Sat.



The 3rd Annual Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival

Artists and Activists
April 5-12 @ Bam Rose Cinemas
30 Lafayette Avenue

30 INTERNATIONAL FILMS INCLUDING THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE KLARSFELDS; THE NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF ASESSINO (ASSASSIN); THE NEW YORK PREMIERES OF ROBERT CAPA IN LOVE AND WAR AND TAKING WING; AND A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE MAYOR OF THE WEST SIDE.

Special guests include acclaimed screenwriters Arthur Laurents (*The Way We Were*, *Gypsy*, *West Side Story*) and Walter Bernstein (*The Front*), award-winning actress Barbara Sukowa, (*Rosa Luxemburg*), noted choreographer and dancer, Pearl Lang, Harvey Lichtenstein, Arthur Yorinks and a live gospel performance in English and in Hebrew with Black Jewish singer Joshua Nelson and friends.

Visit www.brjff.org and www.bam.org

for complete program info and show times. Tickets now on sale through

www.moviephone.com

(Search by theater, zip

code 11217) or 777-Film.

All tickets, including senior

and student tickets also on

sale at BAM box office

Hot Line-718-736-4111

For opening night party tickets,

\$15, call Jackie Lew at

718-768-1860

Robert Capa from Robert Capa in Love and

War. Photo: Cornell Capa.



'You're the inspiration'

Tributes to master composers

By Kevin Filipi

For The Brooklyn Papers

For its first-ever spring festival, Brooklyn's One World Symphony will pair music by established composers with world premieres by composers who were influenced by them on consecutive Tuesday evenings at the church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity in Brooklyn Heights.

David Hong, conductor and director of One World, said the series, which began March 25, grew out of the musicians' own aspirations. "We'd been giving concerts once a month this season, and with all the premise within the ensemble, we felt there was more we could be doing," he told GO Brooklyn. "All our members are young, professionally skilled and dedicated musicians who believe in what they are playing," he said, "so the suggestion came that we perform once a week rather than once a month. That started the idea of experi-

menting with these concerts."

Hong said the orchestra aims high in such programming decisions.

The challenge is finding the music to perform on each program," he explained. "The audience will hear the music of composers they are likely already familiar with, and then hear their influence on modern composers. We're also featuring letters written by the major composers, reading by actors or scholars. And we're featuring four local composers alongside the better-known composers, putting this new music into the context of the great composers of the past."

Each "new" composer on the program is familiar to Hong and the orchestra and lives in the New York area. Margarita Zelenka, whose Sonata for Flute and Piano premiered March 25, lives in Manhattan; Hong, whose "Musikverein" premieres April 1, lives in Prospect Park; Pedro D'Aquino, whose Mozart-influenced world premiere will be April 8, is a Bay Ridge resident; and



One World Symphony performs at the church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity in Brooklyn Heights.

John Craven, whose vocal work, "To the New Day" premieres April 15, recently moved from Park Slope to New Jersey. The April 1 concert is indebted as much to a famous Austrian philosopher as it is to the music of Richard Wagner.

"While I was at the Vienna State Conservatory, my philosophy professor was a student of Viktor Frankl, himself a student of Sigmund Freud," Hong explained. "She introduced me to Frankl at one of my concerts, and he was an inspiration to me."

"It was his line, 'Let us shake hands over their graves,' that made me think of Felix Mendelssohn, who was a Jew, and Wagner, who was an anti-Semite. They both wrote very beautiful music," said Hong.

Hong's composition "Musikverein" is subtitled "Hommage to Viktor Frankl," taking influences from Mendelssohn and Wagner, who Hong believes has

gotten a raw deal. Case in point: Wagner's lovely birthday present to his wife, Cosima, "Siegfried Idyll," opening the April 1 program.

"It's an intimate work, which contradicts the prevailing thoughts about Wagner's music — the incredible length, drama and bombast," Hong said. "Siegfried Idyll" is the total opposite, showing him as a gentle human being. Whatever he said about others, it shows that he loved his wife."

For the April 8 program, Pedro D'Aquino — One World's artistic adviser — premieres a vocal work comprised of letters written by Mozart.

"The third movement of Mozart's 'Gran Partita' [which opens the concert] has greatly influenced Pedro's work — my teacher once told me you could get a glimpse of heaven listening to that movement, which is Mozart at his most sublime and elegant," said Hong. "Pedro uses the same orchestration: all winds."

Hong marveled, "He can do it all: organist, pianist and baritone, as well as a composer."

The final program, on April 15, pairs Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring" with John Craven's two-movement "To the New Day" for baritone, mezzo-soprano and orchestra, based on poems by University of Iowa professor Marvin Bell.

"There's an honest struggle in John's music," said Hong, noting that American composers like Copland and Samuel Barber have provided inspiration. Craven himself says, "Appalachian Spring" has been a huge influence on me, and Copland's emphasis on the open space and nature exists in my piece as well. He was a father of American music for many younger composers."

One World Symphony's exciting series shows that classical music is alive and well, a direct line to Broadway and great composers of the past with those of the present.

WHERE TO GO...

Continued from previous page...

pm, New York Aquarium, West

Eighth Street and Surf Avenue.

(718) 255-PSH.

ZOO: Prospect Park Zoo "Nighttime

Noses, Evening Ears." Kids, 6

to 8, are invited to visit the zoo

after hours and learn how noc-

turnal animals survive using

their senses. \$15, 6 to 7 pm.

Registration: (718) 399-7399.

PUPPETWORKS: presents "The

Prince and The Magic Flute."

7:30 and 8:30 pm. See Sat.

MUSICAL THEATER: "Annie," 5

pm. See Sat.

OTHER

DRAWING WORKSHOP: Prospect

Park Audubon Center offers

adults a class, "Introduction to

Landscaping Drawing." \$3, 10 am

to noon. Audubon Center at the

Boathouse in Prospect Park.

(718) 257-3000.

SONYA RECEPTION: South of the

river and after a reception,

3 to 7 pm. The Corridor

Gallery, 6 Grand Ave. (718)

789-2545. Free.

WINE TASTING: Union Temple pre-

sents a professional wine

reception, 5 to 7 pm. Eastern

Parkway, (718) 638-7600.

CHALLAH MAKING: Park Slope

Jewish Center offers a baking

class, \$12, 5:30 members. Pre-

registration necessary. Call for

times. Eighth Avenue and 14th

Street, (718) 748-1463.

LECTURE: Brooklyn Public Library,

Central branch, presents

Russian artist director and

choreographer Boris Eifman, 2

pm. Grand Army Plaza, (718)

230-2100. Free.

CHAIR YOGA: at Park Slope

Food Coop, 2:15 pm. (718)

422-0560. Free.

FASHION SHOW: at St. Finbar's,

\$50 includes lunch. Noon to 4

pm. Murphy's Restaurant,

Conrad Island. Call for reserva-

tions. (718) 256-3312.

FASHION SHOW: Spoke the Hub

Dance fundraiser featuring

recycled, donated clothes. \$15

includes tea and cookies, 3 pm.

Reservations: (718) 256-3312.

LIVE MUSIC: Chess, dominoes

and Scrabble offered at Office

Ops, 4 to 6 pm. No cover.

Refreshments available. 57

Thames St. (718) 418-2509.

BARBERS BAR: Reading series cel-

ebrates "The Manhattan

Review," 6 pm, 376 North St.

(718) 965-1171. Free.

SUPPORT: Obsessive Compulsive

Anonymous meets at 6 pm.

Father-Daughter Center, 61

Park Place, second floor. (718)

832-5624. Free.

MON, MARCH 31

MEETING: of Community Board

5, 6:30 pm. St. Mary's Residence,

411 First St. (718) 643-3027.

KABBALAH CLASS: Congregation

Me Shas, 7 to 8:15 pm. 250 Cad-

ogan Plaza West. (718) 975-9124.

LECTURE: Congregation B'nai

Ashkenazi hosts the third lecture

in its series "From Purim to

Passover." Learn why these fes-

tivals are different from others.

7:30 pm, 117 Remsen St.

(718) 802-1827. Free.

GALAPOS ART SPACE: The

Festival Project benefits even-

ing with music by Hector Rille

and Geddi Prime. \$10, 8 pm, 70

North 30th St. (718) 762-5188.

(718) 965-8999.

JAZZ FEST: Fourth annual Central

Brooklyn Jazz Festival presents

Bertha Hope and Olu Dara

Band. \$16, 6 pm. Sugarhill

Supper Club, 615 DeKalb Ave.

(718) 975-1016.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER: Congre-

gation B'nai Anshin celebrates

its 14th anniversary with a din-

ner honoring John Wien, presi-

dent of Omnicom Group, Martin

Minkowitz as Man of the Year,

and others. \$200, 6:30 pm.

New York Marriott Brooklyn,

333 Adams St. (718) 802-1827.

ABOVE THE RIGHT BANK: Music

with Xu Xiu. No cover. 7 pm.

409 Kent Ave. (718) 585-5929.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Students

from Brooklyn Tabernacle Adult

Education Ministry reading

from their fourth volume of

poems and essays. 7 pm.

606 Court St. (718) 246-4158. Free.

GALE GATES: Translators

present a benefit per-

formance of "Compass Your

Dreams," a tribute to silence.

\$25, 8 pm. Gale Gates at 37

Man St. (718) 875-1177.

GALAPOS ART: Little Gay Book

Lecture #18: "How to Predict

the Future." \$5, 8 pm. 70

North 30th St. (718) 762-5188.

WRITERS CONFERENCE: Na-

tional Black Writers confer-

ence hosted by Medgar Evers

College. New York Marriott of

Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. Call for

information. (718) 270-6764.

BAM: The Royal National Theater

and The Market Theatre of

Johannesburg in "The Island,"

by Athol Fugard. \$40, 8 pm.

651 Fulton St. (718) 638-4111.

UNIVERSOIL CIRCUS: 7:30 pm.

See Sat.

WEDS, APRIL 2

REAL ESTATE SEMINAR: Brooklyn

Economic Development Corp.

hosts a workshop "Real Estate

Incentive Programs Seminar."

Workshop is for representatives

of local development corpo-

ration, business improvement

districts, offices of elected officials

and real estate brokerage firms.

7:30 am to 12:30 pm. 175

Remsen St., suite 350. Reser-

vation: (718) 322-6600, ext. 12.

MEETING: of Bay Ridge Senior

Center. 9:30 am. Good Shep-

herd Lutheran Church, 7420

Fourth Ave. (718) 921-5949.

DANCE: Long Island University

presents Sanku Kiboko Dance

Company in a program of Ja-

panese dance. Noon. Triangle

Theater, DeKalb Avenue and

Flatbush Avenue Extension.

(718) 488-1015. Free.

LECTURE: St. Francis College

hosts a talk, "The Miracle of

Brazil: Problems and Solutions."

12:20 to 1:45 pm. 180 Remsen

St. (718) 489-5272. Free.

LEGAL TALK: Brooklyn Bar

Association talk, "Using the

Internet for Legal Research."

Acquiescent Cartwell, senior law

librarian, NY Supreme Court

Library, Kings County, is guest

speaker. \$30, 1 to 2 pm. 123

Kennon St. (718) 624-1243.

PLAY BALL: Softball players and

coaches are being sought by

the Prospect Park Women's

Softball League. Evaluation

workout for players. 5 pm.

Prospect Park, softball field

near band shell at Ninth Street.

(718) 965-8999.

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